

### **Claims**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for configuring a first device of a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

5 analyzing at least one message received in the first device from a second device of the communication system in order to determine a particular version of a protocol associated with the second device; and

storing in a memory associated with the first device an indication of the particular version of the protocol associated with the second device.

10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first device comprises a switch of the communication system.

15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the second device comprises a customer premises equipment (CPE) device of the communication system.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the protocol comprises an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) user-network interface (UNI) protocol.

20 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one message analyzed to determine the particular version of the protocol comprises a signaling channel message received over a signaling channel established between the first and second devices.

25 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one message is analyzed by first determining if an information element identifier extracted from the message is a valid information identifier for a current protocol version associated with the second device in a memory of the first device, and if the extracted information element identifier is not a valid information identifier for the current protocol version, determining if the extracted information identifier is a valid information identifier for another version of the protocol.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein a call processing function of the first device is adjusted so as to provide a feature associated with the particular version of the protocol.

8. An apparatus for use in configuring a first device of a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

a processor associated with the first device and operative to analyze at least one message received in the first device from a second device of the communication system in order to determine a particular version of a protocol associated with the second device; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing an indication of the particular version of the protocol associated with the second device.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the first device comprises a switch of the communication system.

10. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the second device comprises a customer premises equipment (CPE) device of the communication system.

11. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the protocol comprises an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) user-network interface (UNI) protocol.

12. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the at least one message analyzed to determine the particular version of the protocol comprises a signaling channel message received over a signaling channel established between the first and second devices.

13. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the at least one message is analyzed by first determining if an information element identifier extracted from the message is a valid information identifier for a current protocol version associated with the second device in a memory of the first device, and if the extracted information element identifier is not a valid information identifier for the

current protocol version, determining if the extracted information identifier is a valid information identifier for another version of the protocol.

14. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein a call processing function of the first device is adjusted so as to provide a feature associated with the particular version of the protocol.

15. A machine-readable medium storing one or more programs for configuring a first device of a communication system, wherein the one or more programs when executed by a processor implement the steps of:

analyzing at least one message received in the first device from a second device of the communication system in order to determine a particular version of a protocol associated with the second device; and

storing in a memory associated with the first device an indication of the particular version of the protocol associated with the second device.

16. A method for configuring a first device of a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:

analyzing at least one message received in the first device from a second device of the communication system in order to determine a particular version of an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) user-network interface (UNI) protocol associated with the second device; and

storing in a memory associated with the first device an indication of the particular version of the protocol associated with the second device;

wherein the at least one message is analyzed by first determining if an information element identifier extracted from the message is a valid information identifier for a current protocol version associated with the second device in a memory of the first device, and if the extracted information element identifier is not a valid information identifier for the current protocol version, determining if the extracted information identifier is a valid information identifier for another version of the protocol.